of Gujarat State has cancelled more than 1500 licences of Ayurvedic drug manufacturers. According to the information submitted by the State Government, there are 558 manufacturers of Ayurveda/Unani drugs out of which 133 have complied with the provisions of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as envisaged in Scnedule-T, under Rule 157 of the Drugs & Cosmetics rules. The remaining manufacturers have been issued notices not to continue operation until the mandatory GMP provisions are complied with. No adverse effect will be felt in meeting the demand of Ayurveda drugs by issuing notices to the non-GMP complaint units. As such, there is no shortage of Ayurvedic drugs in Gujarat or elsewhere.

(c) and (d) Government have received representations from some manufacturers of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs to exempt them from GMP compliance or defer the GMP implementation. The representations were examined before being rejected.

Government have taken a number of steps to sensitize the State Drug Licensing Authorities and Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Drug manufacturers about GMP requirements. In addition to holding workshops in various places, a Centrally sponsored scheme for assisting drug manufacturing units to meet the GMP requirements is also being implemented. Under the scheme, 10% of the cost of GMP compliance subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.00 lakh is given to the drug manufacturing unit as subsidy.

Smuggling of sandalwood

*74. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents reported and cases registered in connection with the smuggling of sandalwood, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise together with the number of accused;

(b) whether sandalwood factories, illegally functioning in the Palakkad district of Kerala, were ordered to be closed during 2005;

(c) the action taken in the above cases; and

(d) the steps taken to protect sandalwood forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of incidents reported and cases registered in connection

with the smuggling of sandalwood, State-wise and year-wise together with the number of accused are given below:

SI. No	States	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Kerala*	200 (274)	380 (486)	252 (418)	376 (318)	42 (28)
2.	Tamil Nadu	850 (706)	408 (398)	250 (295)	111 (139)	118 (173) Till Nov., 04
3.	Karnataka"	Not reported	885	4293	484	Not reported
4.	Andhra Pradesh	38 (29)	32 (22)	20 (12)	32 (14)	15 (16)

(Figures in parenthesis are the number of accused arrested)

No incidents have been reported from other States/Union Territories.

*For Kerala the figures are for calendar years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.

The figures of accused persons have not been reported.

(b) Yes, Sir. The sandalwood factories functioning illegally in the Palakkad district in Kerala have been ordered to be closed down during 2005 vite Government of Kerala's GO. (MS) No; 17/2005/F&WLD dated 09.02.2005.

(c) In addition to registration of offence cases and arresting the accused as described in para (a) above, the quantity of sandalwood (in quintals) and vehicles were seized are as given below:

SI. No	States	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Kerala*	415.82 (13)	367.44 (70)	192.20 (66)	262.91 (28)	23.96 (0)
2.	Tamil Nadu	354.61 (145)	173.33 (67)	101.97 (51)	101.62 (12)	73.2 (12) Till Nov., 04
3.	Karnataka **	Not reported	545.80	833.04	173.09	Not reported
4.	Andhra Pradesh**	227.50	22.49	124.61	92.02	727.12 Till Dec, 04

(Figures in parenthesis are the number of vehicles seized)

*For Kerala the figures are for calendar years 2001,2002,2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.

**The figures of vehicles seized have not been reported.

(d) The steps taken by the concerned States to protect the sandalwood forests are as under:

1. Kerala:

   (i) Creation of Special Task Force and deployment of Rapid Action Force

   (ii) Supply of arms and ammunitions to the staff

   (iii) Involvement of local people in sandal protection through Vanasanrakshana Samithies'

   (iv) Intensive patrolling of forest areas.

2. Tamil Nadu:

   (i) Creation of Striking force

   (ii) Creation of smaller beats for intensive protection

   (iii) Provision of vehicles, wireless, arms etc. to the staff

   (iv) Appointment of Tribals as sandalwood protection watchers

3. Karnataka:

   (i) Establishment of a separate vigilance wing for the purpose

   (ii) Fully equipped forest Mobile squads and staff at all levels

   (iii) Establishment of a network of forest check posts and Forest Protection Camps in sensitive areas

4. Andhra Pradesh:

   Regular patrolling by protection staff, flying squads and the special mobile parties in the vulnerable areas of Andhra Pradesh.

HIV infection during blood transfusion

*75. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain cases the ignorance of the doctors results in getting infection with HIV virus during blood transfusion;